THE F MARKET

A genteel form of masochism for F collectors is the perusal of not-so-old book catalogues. In 1936 one could have squandered $10 on a d. j. copy of GG with an autograph note laid in: "Dear Sinclair Lewis: I've just sent for Arrowsmith. My hope is that The Great Gatsby will be the second best American book of the spring. F. Scott Fitzgerald" (SCRIBNER FIRSTS 1846-1936). Which leads us to the observation that today's market seems to be overcompensating for bygone bargains. That current prices are high indicates that F interest is sustained, that the demand exceeds the supply, and that dealers encounter no great difficulty in getting their prices. Nonetheless, some recent prices appear dangerously high—$22.50 for SMTW, $28.50 for a d.j. VEG, and $40 for a d.j. TITN. To be sure, the dealers are not at fault. Their business is business, and their prices are determined by what some of us are willing to pay. If an adjustment is really called for, it will have to originate with the buyers. The opinion here is that a general exercise of collector caution would be all to the good. [Goodness! MJB-1969.]

TAPS AT REVEILLE

With TAR Scribner's concludes its republication program for F. He is now completely in print, except for VEG and some stories from TJA and ASYM. The new edition of TAR is a fresh typesetting—not a reprint—and it is complete.

The last volume published by F in his lifetime, TAR is a curious collection. It was culled from his 1926-1935 story output and represents his work during the frustrating period he worked on TITN. Consequently, it is something of a grab-bag, including "Babylon Revisited" and "The Fiend." But in the main, the stories echo the note of rueful retrospection sounded in the title as F inspects an unexpectedly disordered world.

Apart from "Babylon," the finest writing in TAR is in the five Basil stories. Four still remain uncollected. Though F sensibly rejected the idea of publishing the series as a book before TITN, there is no good reason for not doing so now.

YALE MS HOLDINGS

Letters:

CC. Gertrude Stein to F, May 1925. About GG.
ALS. F to Stein, June 1925. Reply to above.
ALS. F to Stein [Dec. 1925].
ALS. F to Stein, April 1932.
TLS. F to M. C. Ross, Sept. 1934. Refers to Stein's visit to America.
TLS. F to M. C. Ross, Oct. 1934. Same subject.
TLS. F to Stein, Nov. 1934. Invitation.
TLS. F to Stein, Dec. 1934. Refers to her visit.
ALS. F to Sinclair Lewis, Jan. 1920 [1921]. His admiration for MAIN STREET. Printed in G. H. Lewis, WITH LOVE FROM GRACIE.
ALS. F to [ ] Phillips, n. d.
TLS. F to Matthew Josephson, March 1938. Discusses position of director in Hollywood.

"Crazy Sunday." 25-page typescript with holograph corrections. Printer's copy for AM MERC. This was sold by Scribner's in 1946 (Catalogue #132) for $55.

Yale has several pieces of correspondence between Zelda Fitzgerald and Miss Stein. A recently published keepsake, 80 WRITERS WHOSE BOOKS HAVE BEEN GIVEN . . . TO YALE . . . BY CARL VAN VECHTEN, notes that Mr. Van Vechten has given 9 F letters (1924-1937) and 3 firsts (2 inscribed).

The FN plans to continue these lists; scholars are urged to check out their universities. Next: The University of Virginia.

CHECKLIST

Unless otherwise stated, all dates are 1960.

Bowen, C. D. "Harold Ober," Atl M, CCVI, 1 (July), 35-40. Touching remarks on Ober and F.

de Acosta, M. HERE LIES THE HEART. Reynal. Anecdotes.

Engelborghs, M. "Amerikaanse letteren: F," DWB, 374-380.

Fein, J. M. "La obra meastra de F," ATENEA, CXXXIII, cclxxxiii, 64-73.

Fiedler, L. LOVE & DEATH IN AM NOVEL. Criterion. Intriguing insights from left-field.

F. THIS WEEK, June 19, p. 2–reprints letter to Frances Scott Fitzgerald in Father's Day issue.

Friedrich, O. "F: Money, Money, Money," A Sch, XXIX, 3 (Summer), 392-405. Unfriendly.

Geismar, M. LAST OF THE PROVINCIALS. Hill & Wang, 1959. Paperback reprint.

Hecht, B. "Elegy for Wonderland," ESQ, LI (March 1959). F in Hollywood.

Jacobson, D. "FSF," ENCOUNTER, XIV, 6 (June), 71-77. General reassessment.

Lowrey, B., ed. 20th CENTURY PARODY. Harcourt, Brace. Includes D. O. Stewart parody of F.

Nowell, E. THOMAS WOLFE, A BIOG. Doubleday. Several references to F, who is described as W's *bête noire.*

Porter, B. H. "First Publications of F," TCL, V, 4 (Jan.), 176-182. A checklist which needlessly duplicates Piper's PULC list.

Sands, M. OUTLINE OF MOD AM NOVEL. Hymarx #21. Superficial & incorrect: F described as great-granduncle of Francis Scott Key.

Scholes, R. E. "Modern Novel and Mason-Dixon Line," GaR, XIV, 2 (Summer), 193-204. Compares GG with ABSALOM, ABSALOM!

Weissman, D. L. "Gatsby," NYTBR–Letters, 30-31.

BRIEFS

Surely there is a fatality that attends F projects. The U of Tex biblio scheduled for summer 1959 has never been heard from, and now Piper's biog has been postponed until late 1960. The latter event is a sad blow, for an improved biog is wanted. . . . The Selznick TITN movie has been postponed indefinitely . . . . Princeton has acquired Harold Loeb's BROOM papers, which include F letters . . . . "Paris in the 20's," a TV program presented by "20th Century," was commendable. Included was a

shot of F on the Riviera . . . . The editor is working up a biblio of F and would appreciate information about Canadian editions . . . . According to Blackwell's, a third volume of the Bodley Head F is in the works.

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